GENERAL FUND ENTERPRISE BUSINESS SYSTEM

Frequently Asked Questions

What is GFEBS?

The General Fund Enterprise Business System (GFEBS) is a web-enabled system that will allow the U.S. Army to share financial data across the Service. The technology behind GFEBS is SAP, a commercial off the shelf (COTS), Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) financial management system. The GFEBS implementation involves standardizing financial management and accounting functions and real property inventory and management across the Army. As a result, Army financial and real property professionals will have access to timely, reliable, and accurate information. Additionally this will improve cost management and control, and allow more time to perform financial analysis, and facilitate a more accurate understanding of the value and location/characteristics of all property.

GFEBS will provide a comprehensive system for many of the Army's financial and accounting functions to include:

- General Ledger
- Accounts Payable
- Revenue and Accounts Receivable
- Funds Control and Budgetary Accounting

- Cost Management
- Financial Reporting
- Real Property Inventory and Management

The full scope of the GFEBS project will provide the Army with a system that will be a Chief Financial Officer compliant Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) system, the accounting system of record for all Army General Fund activities.

How many End Users will be on GFEBS at full deployment?

At full deployment, GFEBS will be used by more than 79,000 end-users at nearly 200 Army financial installations. GFEBS will ultimately be one of the world's largest enterprise financial systems.

Is transition to the GFEBS system mandatory?

Transition to this new system is mandatory. The Army is moving rapidly to transform its business and financial management functions in response to two Congressional mandates—the 1990 Chief Financial Officers Act, which orders federal agencies to centralize their finance systems to better account for their spending and the 1996 FFMIA, which requires Federal financial management systems to provide accurate, reliable, and timely financial management information to the government's managers. The move to GFEBS is in response to these mandates and is in concert with the DOD's BMMP and the Army's Campaign Plan (ACP). GFEBS is an integral part of the Army's business transformation of the ACP.

How many financial systems are being evaluated for an interface to GFEBS or as potential to be subsumed by GFEBS?

There are 210 systems under evaluation. To view a listing of the systems whose functionality may be subsumed by GFEBS, you can view the System Evolution Description, posted to the following on the GFEBS website at http://www.gfebs.army.mil/about/architecture.

What will be different after GFEBS is fully fielded? What is the benefit of GFEBS?

Currently, the Army does not have integration across its financial systems or among other domains; GFEBS will integrate over 80% of the financial capabilities of the Army. This integration allows for a single data entry into the system – significantly decreasing the number of manual reconciliations currently being performed throughout the Army. Integration also improves planning, programming, budgeting and execution through the use of integrated output data from financial and non-financial sources.

The GFEBS system will feed vital, up-to-the-minute information to senior civilian and Army leadership. GFEBS will put in place and maintain financial and asset management systems that will not only give Congressional overseers the level of financial accountability they need from the Department, but also provide top-tier Army and DOD leadership with timely, accurate data that will enable them to make sound business decisions in support of America's Warfighters. Additionally, there will be significant savings in personnel- related matters as a result of the implementation of GFEBS. Roles will be re-distributed and realigned in order to appropriately work within the new system.

What is the time frame for training? How long will training be per area of responsibility (roles)?

In general, the user training timeframe for GFEBS will begin approximately three months prior to the release going live. Factors that can increase or decrease the training period include: the number of users to be trained; the timing of the go-live date (e.g., near year-end close, near holiday periods, etc.); and training facility availability. In addition, user training will continue after system go-live. GFEBS support staff will stay on-site after go-live to provide support, including follow-up or refresher user training. The length of this support period and size of the support team depend on the size and complexity of the installation. Many of the GFEBS training courses are specific to user roles. Therefore, the length of training per user will vary depending on the number and complexity of roles assigned to the user.

Will GFEBS reports show commitments, obligations and disbursements?

Yes, the GFEBS Funds Status Reports will display commitments, obligations, and disbursements. The reports will also display budget (allotment and annual funding plan), expenses, and available budget to get a complete status of budget authority.

What will happen to Army legacy data in the systems being replaced by GFEBS?

The goal is to leave as much data as possible in the legacy system in order to preserve the integrity and auditability of GFEBS. GFEBS will only cleanse and convert data that is deemed necessary to move to GFEBS.

Which appropriations will be covered by GFEBS?

GFEBS will cover the following appropriations: 1) Operations and Maintenance, 2) Procurement Operations, and 3) Research, Development, Test and Evaluation (RDT&E). GFEBS will not cover working capital – that is included in the Logistics Modernization Program (LMP).

What is the schedule of fieldings? When and how will we receive notification about deployment and training for our organization?

In Release 1.2, GFEBS will implement full General Fund functionality (replacing STANFINS) to Fort Jackson IMCOM and supporting directorates/activities at HQDA, IMCOM HQ, IMCOM SE Region, Ft. Jackson, and DFAS. In Release 1.3, GFEBS will implement full General Fund functionality (replacing STANFINS) Army-wide, including the Guard and Reserves. In Release 1.4, GFEBS will be fielded to all SOMARDS sites. GFEBS will work with all impacted organizations in preparation for implementation. Preparation efforts will parallel the deployment approach, starting at the Command level and cascading through the Army to installations, organizations and directorates to be impacted by GFEBS.

Training Frequently Asked Questions

Will there be training on the new system?

Yes, GFEBS will offer a robust training program for end-users. GFEBS will provide role-based training using a blended approach. It will consist of classroom instruction and web-based training. In addition, GFEBS will also provide job-aids, a "sandbox" to practice, online help, and on-site support.

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The specific details of the R1.3 GFEBS deployment plan are currently being developed and will be completed by the end of September 2007.

Will GFEBS provide a help desk?

Yes, there will be an end-user help desk established in advance of the first deployment at Fort Jackson. The end-user help desk will continue to operate throughout the deployment activities and will be ongoing as part of the Operations & Support (O&S) sustainment mission activities.

Who will maintain the GFEBS system after implementation, a current contractor or local government IT staff?

GFEBS will stand up an Operations & Support (O&S) which will be manned by both contractor and government personnel. The O&S mission will be to sustain GFEBS during the post deployment years.

Access Frequently Asked Questions

How can I access GFEBS?

You must use your Common Access Card (CAC) to access GFEBS. The URL to access GFEBS directly is https://prodep.gfebs-erp.army.mil. Alternatively, you can log onto the Army Knowledge Online (AKO) Portal, Navigate to the GFEBS channel, and click on the GFEBS Portal link.

I am trying to use my Common Access Card (CAC) to access GFEBS but am unable to login. What do I do?

First, your CAC must be registered with AKO. To accomplish this, navigate to the AKO Portal and select the "How do I use my CAC to login to AKO?" link. Once you can logon to the AKO Portal with your CAC, you should be able to successfully authenticate to GFEBS.

Why am I automatically logged out after 15 minutes of inactivity?

GFEBS Program requirements dictate that users are timed out after 15 minutes of inactivity.

Why am I automatically logged out after 4 hours of using the GFEBS Portal?

Your session in the GFEBS Portal is also tied to your CAC session. AKO has a policy that sessions must be re-authenticated after 4 hours of activity. You should receive two warning messages in the final 30 minutes of your session.

What is the screen resolution required on my computer?

The recommended screen resolution for usage of GFEBS is: 1280x1024

Functional Frequently Asked Questions

How many financial systems are being evaluated for an interface to GFEBS or as potential to be subsumed by GFEBS?

Currently there are 87 systems that will be subsumed by the GFEBS solution. In addition, there are 210 systems under evaluation. To view a listing of the systems whose functionality may be subsumed by GFEBS, you can view the System Evolution Description, posted to the following on the GFEBS website at http://www.gfebs.army.mil/about/architecture.

What will happen to Army legacy data in the systems being replaced by GFEBS?

The goal is to leave as much data as possible in the legacy system in order to preserve the integrity and auditability of GFEBS. GFEBS will only cleanse and convert data that is deemed necessary to move to GFEBS.

Is IMA On-Line (IOL) going away with the inception of GFEBS? If so, when?

The functionality of IMA On-Line will be in the GFEBS solution. As each site is deployed under GFEBS, they would no longer use IMA On-Line. The exact deployment schedule is still being developed, but once all IMA activities are under GFEBS, IOL should be shut down.

How does GFEBS affect Funds Control (part of the Logistics Modernization Program)?

As the General Fund system of record, GFEBS will maintain all Funds Control. Systems such as LMP will interface with GFEBS to obtain a fund check whenever the funds used are General Funds.

Will GFEBS interface with each instance of SPS or with some sort of consolidated SPS database?

At this point, the plan is to interface to each instance of SPS. Based on the Spending Chain workshops, we will need to interface with each instance of SPS since the increment 3 of SPS has been halted. The number of interfaces is still being worked out by the Spending Chain functional team at this time. GFEBS will not coordinate or require a consolidated SPS database.

How will the IFS system be affected by the GFEBS system? Will I have two systems to deal with or just the one GFEBS?

GFEBS has the functionality to replace IFS. Once GFEBS deploys to your installation, there should not be any dual entry required. IFS, or some sort of data warehouse, should still be available for historical research for any data that is not converted into GFEBS.

Will GFEBS work with or subsume the Wide Area Workflow (WAWF) utilized with DFAS for receipts and payments?

GFEBS will interface with, not subsume, WAWF. Goods receipts will be performed in GFEBS and interfaced to WAWF. Interfaces have also been identified for incoming invoices from WAWF to GFEBS.

When will GFEBS interface with the Defense Travel System (DTS)?

Interface development between the Defense Travel System (DTS) and GFEBS is part of the R1.2 deployment.

Will Directorate of Logistics be utilizing GFEBS for equipment or work management?

Information will be interfaced to GFEBS from external systems to capture cost (maintenance for real property and installed equipment, and capitol expense for real property and assets). The intent is not to use GFEBS as the work management system for Non- General fund execution.

How will problems in GFEBS be handled, for example rejects in the Logistics Modernization Program (LMP)?

Transactions processed through the interface will be translated into an intermediate document (IDOC) to load the data into GFEBS (SAP). If there is an error, the IDOC is suspended and the appropriate person is notified to work the problem and reprocess the IDOC if necessary.

Will we be able to perform cost comparisons like we can in SOMARDS?

GFEBS plans to provide variance analysis on individual cost centers and projects based on budget (spend) and cost plan. In order to provide you with more details, please let us know what type of cost comparisons you perform today that you would need to have done in GFEBS by emailing gfebs.info@us.army.mil.

Will we be able to create ad hoc reports in GFEBS?
Yes, ad hoc reports can be created in GFEBS. For ad hoc reporting, there is a wide parameter of selection criteria that allows the user to look at all of the data, sort it, choose a selection of fields, and control the output of the report. The ad hoc report is useful because it provides a tool with sorting capability. Ad hoc reports will be able to run real-time in GFEBS; however, ad hoc queries will be stored in the data warehouse which is updated nightly.

What is the backup process? What would determine when users are transferred to the backup? Is the backup a real time redundant system or just data storage?

The design for the US Army GFEBS System includes Disaster Recovery Failover capabilities, using the Secondary Data Center site, with a near real-time database standby to the Primary site as part of Release 1.2. In the event of a disaster or catastrophic event, the GFEBS system would be up and operational within 6 hours, having little to no impact to the end user community.

Technical Frequently Asked Questions

How many financial systems are being evaluated for an interface to GFEBS or as potential to be subsumed by GFEBS?

Currently there are 84 systems that will be subsumed by the GFEBS solution. In addition, there are 140 systems under evaluation.

What is the GFEBS backup process?

The GFEBS production infrastructure is located at the Redstone Arsenal Data Center. This data center has redundant power sources, including backup generators and full Uninterruptible Power Supply (UPS), ensuring high availability for financial operations. During normal operations, GFEBS data will be backed up to tape storage devices and stored off-site. Additionally, this data will be regularly transmitted to a "warm" Disaster Recovery (DR) site. In the event of a disaster, GFEBS will be operational at this DR site within six hours.

A single system like GFEBS will experience extreme demand during year-end processing. Will load testing be performed?

The project has completed the performance and stress test for Release 1.2. The results have confirmed that the system will scale to meet R1.2 user volumes. The R1.3 performance and stress test planning will begin in November 2008 and the test execution will begin in January 2009. We will also plan and execute an FOC performance and stress test during the period July through September 2009 to confirm scalability for the FOC user population at peak periods such as end of year processing.

Does GFEBS have separate development, quality assurance, test, and production instances?

GFEBS follows a three-tier system architecture consisting of a development (DEV), quality assurance (QA), and production (PRD) environment. GFEBS components for these environments are hosted in two data centers. The primary data center hosts the entire GFEBS PRD infrastructure and environment while the secondary data center will host both the DEV and QA environments.

Where will GFEBS data be stored?

Disk storage will be provided by the internal disk drives on each server until storage requirements are such that a Storage Area Network (SAN) is needed at both the primary and secondary data centers.

What are the user requirements for accessing GFEBS?

GFEBS is a web-based solution which can be accessed through an internet browser. Using Internet Explorer 6.0 or later version is recommended. To access GFEBS, all users must have a National Agency Check (NAC) or equivalent security clearance on file, a Common Access Card (CAC) to use a CAC-enabled workstation, and be a registered AKO user.

For additional information about GFEBS, please visit
www.gfebs.army.mil